# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:172
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
REDUCTION IN TRANSPORTATION COST
Patil Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to reduce the cost of transportation of foodgrains from point of production to point of consumption;

(b) whether policy of food production according to local needs would be adopted to reduce the cost of transportation;

(c) if so, whether the Government has studied the food consumption pattern in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, whether food security would be henceforth calculated on regional rather than national level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.172 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 13.12.2004 IN THE LOK SABHA

(a): To reduce the cost of transportation of foodgrains, the Food Corporation of India has taken the following major steps:-

(i) Transportation of foodgrains to consuming States from the nearest procurement States.

(ii) Minimization of transit losses.

(iii) Reduction in handling expenses, both at the loading and unloading points.

(b): To encourage procurement in non-traditional States, the Government has introduced the system of decentralized procurement of foodgrains by State Governments in 1997. This system enables procurement of foodgrains varieties to suit local needs.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e): The Government of India makes an assessment of the foodgrains requirement and availability at the national level, as there are no restrictions on the movement of foodgrains within the country. For food security and for meeting the requirements of Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes, the Government of India has fixed buffer norms for the country.